

Visit Cruickshank Sanctuary

Sanctuary Hours

Open sunrise to sunset seven days a week.

Directions to the Sanctuary

From US-1 go west on Barnes Blvd and travel for 0.4 miles. Look for sign and entrance on right. From North bound I-95 take the Fiske Blvd Exit-195. At off ramp light, go straight (east) onto Barnes Blvd and travel 2.2 miles to entrance on left. From I-95 take South bound the Fiske Blvd Exit-195. At off ramp light, turn right on Fiske Blvd and take an immediate right on Barnes Blvd and travel 2.2 miles to entrance on left. Parking is available.



Visitor Guidelines

No Hunting

All plants and animals are protected; do not remove

Park in established areas – do not block roads or gates

No ATVs

No Pets, except Service Dogs (F.S. 413.08)

Alcohol prohibited

No smoking

Visit brevardcounty.us/EELProgram/Areas/Cruickshank

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Brevard County Environmentally
Endangered Lands Program
www.eelbrevard.com

Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary



A Neighborhood Island

The Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary was originally part of a larger span of high, dry scrubby habitat. Whenever possible, the EEL Program acquires land to help connect existing natural areas. However, as landscapes are developed with buildings and roadways, natural habitats become fragmented (broken up and isolated). Because scrub is favored for development due to its aforementioned dryness, the Cruickshank Sanctuary has become an “island” in the midst of a developed landscape.

This Sanctuary was purchased through the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) in 1995 and named after Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank. The Cruickshanks played a major role in Florida to make the general public aware of the need to conserve, restore and save the native plants, animals, birds, wetlands, uplands and coastal habitats that are unique to Brevard County. Helen and Allan were most fascinated with birds whose survival, they knew, depended on the preservation of the native environment.

Habitat Renewal

Historically, scrub and pine flatwoods areas caught fire from lightning strikes. Fire is important as it returns nutrients to the soil and maintains vegetation height and thickness for native plants and animals. Due to development the natural burning does not take place. The EEL program uses controlled burns to mimic the natural cycle.

Today, when a wildfire starts, chances are good that a neighborhood or business is nearby. Wildfires need to be extinguished quickly to protect people and buildings. However, when fires are suppressed, fragmented habitats do not get the benefits of a natural fire cycle.

Land Management in Action

The EEL program actively conducts controlled burns to reintroduce fire to native habitats, while protecting adjacent private property. Controlled burns help the long-term survival of species like the gopher tortoise and Florida scrub-Jay. These species need the low vegetation of a regularly burned landscape.



More About The EEL Program

The commitment, time, and expertise of citizen volunteers plays a vital role in the management of EEL Program conservation lands. If you would like to volunteer with the EEL Program, please contact us at the Central Region Education Center.

Contact Information

For inquiries call or email the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

Central Region Education Center

Sams House

6195 North Tropical Trail

Merritt Island, Florida 32953

Phone: 321-449-4720

Central Region Land Manager

David DeMeyer

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www.eelbrevard.com

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
Main Office:

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Conservation Lands Work to...

Protect rare and endangered species

Improve wildlife habitat

Protect aquifer recharge areas

Provide passive recreation

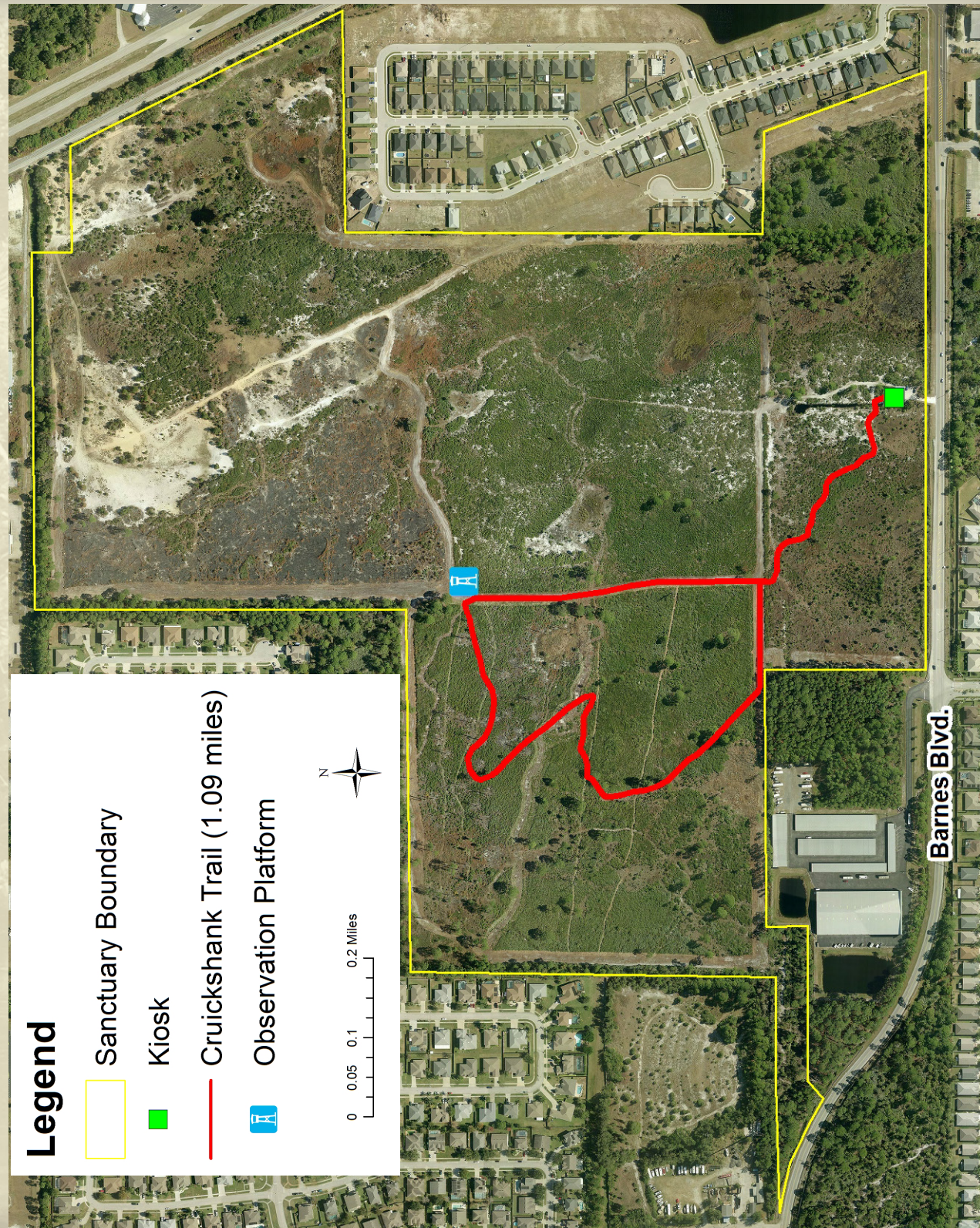
Serve as living classrooms

Improve health and quality of life

Benefit the local economy



Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary



Florida scrub jay



- The Florida scrub jay is known to have been present in Florida as a recognizably distinct species since at least 2 million years ago.
- The Florida scrub jay is found only in Florida scrub, an ecosystem that exists only in fragmented locations in Florida.
- Florida scrub jays are omnivorous, and eat a wide variety of acorns, seeds, insects, tree frogs, turtles, snakes, lizards and young mice.
- The mating season for the Florida scrub jay ranges from March to June, and the incubation period lasts about 18 days.
- Fledgling (young) Florida scrub jays remain in their parents' habitat for several years and help to rear young, watch for predators and defend territory against neighboring Florida scrub jay family groups
- Florida scrub jays will steal silverware and other shiny objects in a manner similar to the American Crow.



Why Connections Are Important

As human land use changes, the impacts on the landscape are dramatic. Natural areas become fragmented and isolated. As habitat patches grow farther apart, many animals lose the resources that are critical to their survival in the area. The animals must adapt their movement patterns to find new resources. Their movement is usually limited to natural landscapes called wildlife corridors.

When any changes are made to the landscape, it is important to consider the limitations placed on wildlife movement. Not only can wildlife corridors provide important linkages in a highly fragmented landscape, but they can also provide significant urban and rural recreational opportunities.

Explore Recreational Opportunities

- Hiking** The trailhead at the entrance parking area currently leads to over a mile of trail running straight through a cross-section of scrub habitat.
- Wildlife Viewing** Observation of scrub jays, gopher tortoises, and raptors is common along the path.



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